(c) whether any time limit has been fixed to complete the construction;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the institute is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Passports for CIS Countries

2416. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the students, who intend to go to the countries of the C.I.S. (Former U.S.S.R.), experience difficulties in obtaining passport which is not experienced by the students who go to other countries for higher studies; and

(b) if so, the measures that have been taken to minimise their difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Applications of students who are going abroad for higher studies are considered sympathetically for expeditious issue of passports to them. However, in cases of students intending to study in the countries of C.I.S., the admission letters issued by their colleges/universities are required to be attested by the concerned Indian mission confirming their authenticity on the basis of which passports are then issued to such students on urgent basis. This procedure has been adopted as admission letters are often in Russian, from institutions not well known in India, making their misuse possible by persons who are not bona fide students. It, therefore, ensures that letters of admission are genuine and from viable institutions.

Ground Water

2417. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board had set-up S.U.O. in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh in 1995 on the recommendations of a high Level Committee for growth and development of the ground water resources in the 27 districts of Western Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the works undertaken by this unit so far; and

(c) whether this unit is likely to be shifted somewhere else and if so the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Consequent on opening of Regional Office at Patna on the basis of High Level Multi-disciplinary Committee's recommendations the State Unit Office of Patna was shifted to Bareilly.

(b) The State Unit Office of Bareilly has so far undertaken reappraisal hydrogeological survey, ground water level monitoring and ground water exploration in some parts of western Uttar Pradesh.

(c) It was decided to shift the State Unit Office Bareilly to Allahabad. However, keeping in view the size or the State, number of districts and the population, the decision has been reviewed. It has now been decided to retain the State Unit Office at Bareilly and in addition open another State Unit Office at Allahabad to look after the work of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Social Conditions of Women

2418. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal to improve the economic and social conditions of women in 10 districts of the State with the help of external funding from European Community;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal is still pending with the Union Government;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be cleared

(e) whether the duration of the project was 7 years from 1995 onwards; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (e). Income-generating activities are proposed in the areas of Khadi and Village Industries, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Agricultural Engineering. Total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 153.29 crores. The project was proposed to be implemented from 1995 for a period of 7 years.

(c) to (f). The Government of India can only pose a proposal for external funding. Its clearance depends on the priorities of the external funding agency.

[Translation]

Water for Irrigation

2419. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the utilisation and availability of water for irrigation as on date in the country, particularly in Adivasi and Tribal areas of Gujarat; and

(b) the details of the irrigation capacity enhanced during the last five years and the amount spent in Gujarat thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Out of a total available utilisable water of 1142 billion cubic metres in the country, the utilisation of water (surface and ground) for irrigation purposes (1994-95) is 501 billion cubic metres. Utilisable water has been assessed basin-wise and not State-wise.

(b) Irrigation Potential (capacity) created in Gujarat during the last five years and the amount spent thereon are as under :

Year	Irrigation Potential (Capacity) Created (In Thousand hectares)	Expenditure (Rupees in Crores)
1991-92	44.00	690.8
1992-93	50.15	454.1
1993-94	36.40	483.8
1994-95	49.93 (anticipated)	586.0 (anticipated)
1995-96	54.80 (anticipated)	585.9 (anticipated)

[English]

Border Trafficking in Children

2420. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1427 dated July 22, 1996 regarding border trafficking in children and state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to have some bilateral arrangements with Nepal and Bangladesh to curb across the border trafficking in children;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Nepal and India have an open border and the movement of people from one country to the other is not regulated by official agencies. In the case of Bangladesh, existing immigration laws regulate the movement of all persons, including children.

Though there are no bilateral agreements on the issue, Government are taking steps to curb the social evil of trafficking in children. Law enforcement agencies in the countries concerned are coordinating their efforts to handle the problem.

Obsolete Machine/Under Staff in Blood Bank

2421. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Obsolete machines and under staff plague blood bank" appearing in the Statesman dated September 6, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein, and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the inspection by the Drug Control Officials of Delhi Government on 9th September, 1996 the following deficiencies were noticed :

(i) There was shortage of technical staff in the Blood Bank.

(ii) The refrigerators were not functioning.

(iii) Out of three, two centrifuge machines were out of order.

(iv) Blood tests were not being done at the laboratory of the Blood Bank.

(c) The Blood Bank has been strengthened by posting more technical staff, nurses and attendants. There are two walk-in-coolers for blood storage and issue. Steps are being taken to repair the Blood Bank refrigerator. Other machines like water bath and centrifuge machine are available in the Department of Blood Bank adjoining Testing Laboratory. No blood is issued without performing mandatory laboratory tests.

Expansion of Viswa Bharati

2422. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the financial problem related to expansion plan of the activities of the facilities of 'Viswa Bharati', Shantiniketan;

(b) if so, the steps, the Government propose to take to support the cause of Viswa Bharati;

(c) whether any modern method has been found to preserve and protect the original Scripts, Songs, Instruments, Paintings of Tagore in Viswa Bharati; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b). Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, has sent a proposal for establishment of 'VISVASIA', a Centre for the study of Asian Civilisations. As, however, the proposal is silent about specific terms of reference and the requirement of funds for the project, the University has been advised to have a detailed project report prepared to enable the Government to proceed further into the matter.